

NEWTON YOUTH COMMISSION Meeting
January 4, 2012 MINUTES
Location: Newton City Hall Cafeteria

Present: Joe De Vito Chair, Anthony Bibbo, Chris Fortunato, Matt Green, Terrance Sack, Robert Staulo, Kirsten Tuohy
Staff: Ruth Hoshino
Guests: Tom Pomeroy, Deb Darcy (Juvenile Probation Officer), Mary Kern (West Suburban YMCA), Karen Manning, Andrew Messinger (Charles River Recreation), Chanda Gunn (Teen Center), Jen Kundla (Bibbo Center), Margaret Hannah (The Newton Partnership)
Students: Teekhon Davidoff, Zachary Eagle, Nadine Geller, Erin Katzeff, Zau LaMothe, Jay Sobel, Sophie Vekoler

The meeting was opened at 7:03 PM and chaired by Joe DeVito
A vote to accept the minutes of December 7, 2011 was passed.

Treasurer's Report: The budget for FY 2012 operating budget is \$2500, a balance of \$1,381.99 remains. The revolving account balance is \$986.12.

Business:

- Mayor's Public Service Internship Program Update –
The interns summarized the December 21 meeting with Mayor Warren. It was a productive meeting and the mayor was pleased with the work of the group. The interns updated the mayor on the work in the following areas:
 - **Youth Summit:** Proposed for fall 2012, this would be an event to reinvigorate community interest in issues related to Newton youth – to bring as many people as possible around the table to plan and support services for teens. The theme would be “*Teen Life in Newton*”. The format would be: a keynote speaker (someone who would attract teens) followed by “break-out” groups that would tackle issues such as: parental relationships, social relationships, drugs and alcohol, stress, managing classes at school, time management and safety. Areas of success as well as challenges would be discussed. The Youth Commission would be central to supporting and advertising this event. It would be a chance to for the community to focus proactively on teen issues rather than as a response to a tragedy. The e-CHUG (electronic Check-Up to Go) would be highlighted at the summit. Some personal teen narratives would be shared at the summit.
 - **Personal Narrative Project:** This would be an anonymous essay about what Newton teen's lives are like (despite some people possibly viewing Newton as a perfect community, authentic struggles and victories could be chronicled). The goal would be to raise awareness and build stronger community relationships around teen issues. Widespread participation would be great. The intern group will work with North and South High Schools and would welcome participation from teen programs.
 - **Anti-Bullying Programs:** The interns told the mayor about their view of the anti-bullying curriculum in school being repetitive and “annoying”.
 - **Teen Centers:** The interns' input about Teen Centers is that there should be more advertising and better accessibility to get the word out.
 - **e-CHUG:** This interactive web survey that allows students to enter information about their drinking patterns and receive feedback about their use of alcohol was explained. The goal of this program is to reduce serious risk related to drinking alcohol. It is customized to Newton and can be used to get feedback about the individual or someone else's (friend, family member, etc.) alcohol use. No personal identifying information is used and no tracking or tracing is done.

The mayor thought it would be important for the teens to meet with the school superintendent.
The intern group is working on increasing membership by 8 students.

- Other Discussion

Margaret Hannah, The Newton Partnership, Core Management Team Chair, announced that the Chestnut Street Teen Center will be relocated to the YMCA in Newton Corner. Chanda Gunn will remain as the director. This interim step will be from February 1, 2012 – July 1, 2012 until a more permanent plan is made. Mary Kern, YMCA Director is delighted that the Teen Center will continue at the YMCA with its 200 year history of serving the community. The Newton Partnership, the YMCA and the Chestnut Street staff and teens are all excited with the facility and the possibilities that it offers. No membership will be required and the Teen Center will have a separate entrance.

A discussion about Newton Teens Centers in general mentioned the need to be aware of accessibility for south side residents.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM. **The next meeting is Wednesday, February 1, 2012 at 7 PM.**
Respectfully submitted by Ruth Hoshino